Sui Dynasty 隋: 581-617
Tang Dynasty 唐: 618-907
Five Dynasties 五代 (and Ten Kingdoms 十國): 907 - 960
Five Dynasties in the north; Ten Kingdoms in the south
Song Dynasty 宋: 960 – 1279
Northern Song 北宋: 960 - 1127 (capital at Kaifeng 开封)
Southern Song 南宋: 1127 - 1279 (capital at Hangzhou 杭州)

Zhao Kuangyin 赵匡胤 (r. 960 - 976); founder of the Song dynasty; originally a general in service to the Later Zhou (the last of the Five Dynasties); known as Emperor Taizu of the Song (Song Taizu 宋太祖).

Zhao Guangyi 趙光義 (r. 976 - 997); brother of Zhao Kuangyin; also began as a military man, but upon assumption of the throne, he was quick to enlist the support of men with education; greatly expands the use of the exam system for official recruitment.

The three grades of examination degrees under the Song:
• xiucai 秀才 or “flowering talent,” lowest county-level degree; also called the shengyuan degree; acquiring this degree gave the recipient certain gentry privileges such as exemption from corvee labor services and corporal punishment.
• juren 舉人 or "recommended man," second provincial-level degree; examinations for this degree held every three years.
• jinshi 進士 or "presented scholar," third & highest national-level degree; examinations held every three years in the capital; successful candidates must sit for the palace exam, after which their rank and position are determined.

Yin 蕭 privilege – privilege granted to high-ranking officials by which their male descendants could gain posts in the official bureaucracy.

Lineage formation in the Song:
1) Genealogy composition
2) Common ritual practices
3) Establishment of charitable estates

Important statesmen of the Northern Song and their factions:
Fan Zhongyan 范仲淹 (989-1052); Northern Song statesman; first person to establish rules for lineage organization.

Wang Anshi 王安石 (1021-86); Northern Song statesman; advocate of the controversial "New Laws (Xinfa 新法)" policies of the 1070s & 1080s; embroiled in court factionalism; his New Laws were considered too interventionist and “Legalist” to other Confucian statesmen of the time.
Sima Guang 司馬光 (1019-86); Northern Song statesman; opponent of Wang Anshi; advocates reform rather than radical change; advocates reform through the study of the past; writes one of the most comprehensive histories of China entitled, *A Comprehensive Mirror for Aid in Government (Zizhi tongjian 資治通鑑)*; covers the period from 403 – 959 CE; (modeled on Sima Qian's 司馬遷 *Records of the Grand Historian (Shi ji 史記)*).